



Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

*Karen Gordes, Chair – Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4718*

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 727

COMMITTEE: HGO

POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS - SUNSET EXTENSION

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as amended, extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (“the Board”) for 2 years until July 1, 2025.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 727 with a Board amendment.

The Board supports SB 727 and requests that it be amended from two years, as passed by the Senate on March 14, 2023, to 10 years ending July 1, 2034.

In 2022, the House of Delegates supported a 10-year extension ending July 1, 2033 however the Senate vote prevailed which extended the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) to only two (2) years until July 1, 2025.

The self-funded Board has no outstanding deficiencies to correct and is a proven fiscally responsible, customer service-centric organization. The passing of SB 727 with amendment will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mandated responsibilities of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Maryland through its licensing, compliance, and disciplinary statutes and regulations for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Health Professional Boards & Commissions (HPBCs) underwent an audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Auditors (OLA) for the period beginning September 28, 2015, and ending September 24, 2019. Published on January 19, 2021, the OLA report did not recommend sunseting the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners or name the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in the findings.

On January 5, 2023, the MDH IAC/S sent a status report to the OLA for the period ending April 30, 2022, determining that the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners satisfactorily completed the OLA’s Health Profession Boards and Commission's findings of January 19, 2021.

The Board respectfully asks that the House Health and Government Operations amend SB 727 to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

Amendment 1

Page 2, line 6: Strike **2025** and insert **2034**.

The Board thanks the committee for considering this testimony and respectfully requests a favorable outcome of SB 727 with the Board amendment to be adopted under this title.

For more information, please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at (410) 764-4718 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.